



**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

# *Program*



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Today, we commemorate 50 years of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). It is my great pleasure as Acting Head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to be joined by so many of you who contributed to the birth, growth, and longevity of the survey. Today would not be possible without your commitment to collecting, analyzing, and disseminating good data in understandable ways to inform criminal justice policies and practices.

Over the five decades of the NCVS, the data has been used to report crime rates in the United States, to show changes in crime rates from year to year, and to inform programs and policies to reduce crime and support victims. Over the past 50 years, the NCVS has undergone innovations in data collection methods and added new survey content to address emerging crime types. The NCVS is the only national measure of crime and criminal victimization that collects information directly from victims and, as such, measures crime not reported to police.

The NCVS has been cited nearly 35,000 times in documents, such as academic literature; federal and state court cases; congressional reports, hearings, and legislation; and newspapers, blogs, and other media stories. Additionally, data collected through the NCVS is used to fulfill the United States' reporting obligations under the Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions Sustainable Development Goal, which is tracked by the United Nations. Also, the survey has been a resource for other countries—such as the United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea, and Mexico—to understand how to measure victimization and to develop or enhance their own victimization surveys.

I have a profound gratitude for the data providers, the data managers, and the amazing team that created, carried out, and sustained the NCVS from the beginning to today and into the future. Those of you gathered here today, in-person and online, demonstrate that you too appreciate the importance of the NCVS. Celebrating this milestone affirms continuing commitment to providing reliable statistics on crime and victimization to inform policies and programs to combat crime, support victims, and reform and strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

As we recognize this milestone, BJS is looking ahead to the future of the NCVS. We are conducting a multiyear effort to improve the efficiency, reliability, and utility of the survey. This effort includes modernizing the organization and content of the NCVS instrument; increasing the quality of information collected and efficiency of the instrument flow; and improving the measurement and classification of crime. Additionally, the NCVS will incorporate two new periodic modules to measure opinions about police performance and indicators of public perceptions of community across the country. Coupled with our N-DASH NCVS data visualization tool, it is an exciting time to be part of continuing the legacy of the NCVS.

Thank you for joining us to commemorate continuous data collection through the NCVS for 50 years... and counting.



Kevin M. Scott, PhD  
Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics



# Agenda

September 27, 2023 | Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Morning Session | Great Hall, Robert F. Kennedy Main Justice Building

	Agenda Item	Speaker
9:30 am	Welcome	Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics
9:35 am	Remarks and Introduction of Invited Speakers	Amy Solomon, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs
9:45 am	Remarks	Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice Other Invited Speakers
10:05 am	Remarks	Robert L. Santos, Director, U.S. Census Bureau
10:15 am	NCVS Round Table Discussion	Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics
10:55 am	NCVS 50th Anniversary Commemorative Video	Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics
11:05 am	Recognition of Special Guests and Closing Remarks	Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Afternoon Session | Main Ballroom, Office of Justice Programs Building

	Agenda Item	Speaker
1:00 pm	Welcome	Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics
1:05 pm	Session 1: NCVS Innovations	Heather Brotsos, Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics
2:00 pm	Break Student Spotlight Presentations	
2:30 pm	Session 2: What We've Learned from the NCVS	Rachel E. Morgan, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics
3:25 pm	Closing	Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics



## NCVS Round Table Discussion

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This session will highlight the relevance of the NCVS in the federal statistical system, importance of the NCVS in establishing criminal justice policies, and research using NCVS.

**Moderator:** Kevin M. Scott, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Panelists:** Janet Lauritsen, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Nancy La Vigne, Director, National Institute of Justice; James P. Lynch, University of Maryland; Kristina Rose, Director, Office for Victims of Crime; Robert L. Santos, Director, U.S. Census Bureau; Bob Sivinski, Office of the Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget

## Session 1: NCVS Innovations Panel

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The first full year of data collection as the National Crime Survey was completed in 1973. Fifty years later, the Bureau of Justice Statistics continues to innovate and improve measurement of crime under the National Crime Victimization Survey. This session will discuss innovations to the NCVS over the decades, including the 1993 instrument redesign, as well as current efforts to redesign the NCVS instruments and measure emerging types of crime, such as cybercrime.

**Moderator:** Heather Brotsos, Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Panelists:** David Cantor, Senior Fellow, Westat; Janet Lauritsen, University of Missouri-St. Louis; James P. Lynch, University of Maryland; Jennifer Truman, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Session 2: What We've Learned from the NCVS Panel

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Over the past 50 years, the NCVS has been a seminal resource for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and media outlets, among others. It has been cited nearly 35,000 times in documents, such as academic literature; federal and state court cases; congressional reports, hearings, and legislation; and newspapers, blogs, and other media stories. This session will explore what we have learned from the survey on crime and victimization, as well as complementary areas of intersection with the FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System. It will highlight research using NCVS on critical topics, such as reporting to police, domestic violence, and identity theft.

**Moderator:** Rachel E. Morgan, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Panelists:** Emily Berg, Statistician, Iowa State University and Bureau of Justice Statistics; Erika Harrell, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Erica Smith, Chief of Law Enforcement Incident Based Statistics, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Min Xie, University of Maryland



# ABOUT THE *Speakers*

## Morning Speakers



**Vanita Gupta** is the 19th United States Associate Attorney General and serves as the third-ranking official at the Department of Justice. Associate Attorney General Gupta supervises multiple litigating divisions within the

Department of Justice and oversees the grantmaking components of the Department, including the Office of Justice Programs, the Office on Violence Against Women, and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, as well as several other offices within the department. Associate Attorney General Gupta previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the nation's oldest and largest coalition of non-partisan civil rights organizations in the United States. Before serving in that capacity, she served as Acting Assistant Attorney General and Head of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Appointed by President Barack Obama as the chief civil rights prosecutor for the United States, Associate Attorney General Gupta advanced a wide range of civil rights enforcement matters. Prior to her tenure leading the Civil Rights Division, Associate Attorney General Gupta served as Deputy Legal Director and the Director of the Center for Justice at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Associate Attorney General Gupta graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and received her law degree from New York University School of Law, where later she taught a civil rights litigation clinic for several years.



**Amy L. Solomon** is the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs, DOJ's principal funding, research, and statistical component. She oversees about \$5 billion annually in grants and other resources

to support state, local and tribal criminal and juvenile justice initiatives and victim service programs. Prior to her confirmation in April 2023, Assistant Attorney General Solomon served as OJP's Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General since May 2021. Before 2021, Assistant Attorney General Solomon was Vice President of Criminal Justice at Arnold Ventures, where she launched and led a corrections reform portfolio which aimed to transform the culture of prisons, spark a fundamental shift in the focus of community supervision from catching failure to promoting success, and expand economic opportunities for people with a criminal record. She previously spent 10 years at the Urban Institute, directing projects relating to prisoner reentry and public safety. Assistant Attorney General Solomon has served on numerous advisory councils and boards, helping shape innovative approaches to criminal justice challenges in collaboration with policymakers and practitioners, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders, and the advocacy community. She holds a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Michigan.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Robert L. Santos** is the 26th Director of the U.S. Census Bureau. His career spans more than 40 years in survey research, statistical design and analysis, and executive-level management. Before coming to the Census Bureau, he spent 15 years as vice president and chief

methodologist at the Urban Institute and directed its Statistical Methods Group – and served as executive vice president and partner of NuStats, a social science research firm in Austin, Texas. He served as the 2021 president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and as president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) in 2014. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Trinity University in San Antonio and a master's degree in statistics from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In 2023, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Sciences by North Carolina State University as well as an honorary Associate of Science from San Antonio College.



**Kevin M. Scott** is the Principal Deputy Director and Acting Agency Head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. He has been with BJS since 2017 and previously served as Deputy Director of Statistical Operations, where he oversaw BJS's statistical

collections. At BJS, Dr. Scott also served as Chief of the Law Enforcement Statistics Unit, supervising data collections that covered federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and training academies, forensic laboratories, and medical examiners and coroners' offices. From 2018 to 2022, he also supervised the Courts Statistics Unit, which is responsible for the Federal Justice Statistics Program and the prosecution, indigent defense, and judicial statistics data collections. Before joining BJS, he served as an analyst for the Congressional Research

Service, as an analyst for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and as Director of the Policy Analysis Unit in DOJ's Office of Legal Policy. Dr. Scott earned his PhD and master's degree in Political Science at The Ohio State University and his bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Oklahoma.

## NCVS Round Table Panelists



**Janet Lauritsen** is Curators' Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of victimization and the data

and methods necessary for understanding these phenomena. She also served as visiting research fellow and senior research scientist at the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as co-editor of *Criminology*, and as president of the American Society of Criminology.



**Nancy La Vigne** is the Director of the National Institute of Justice. She leads NIJ's efforts in improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science, providing objective and independent knowledge and tools to inform the decision-making

of the criminal and juvenile justice communities to reduce crime and advance justice. Dr. La Vigne is a nationally recognized criminal justice policy expert with expertise in policing, corrections reform, reentry from prison, criminal justice technologies, and evidence-based criminal justice practices. She holds a PhD in criminal justice from Rutgers University-Newark, a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas-Austin and a bachelor's degree in government and economics from Smith College.





**James P. Lynch** is a research professor at the University of Maryland-College Park where he was formerly professor and chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Dr. Lynch also served as Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics from 2010

to 2012. Previously, he was a distinguished professor at the City University of New York and a professor at American University. Dr. Lynch’s research focuses on victim surveys, crime statistics, and victimization risk. He has published four books and numerous articles dealing with crime statistics. He was president of the American Society of Criminology and co-editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. He received his B.A. degree from Wesleyan University and his PhD and master’s degree in sociology from the University of Chicago.



**Bob Sivinski** is a third-generation civil servant. As a statistician in the Office of the Chief Statistician of the United States Office of Management and Budget, he designs and implements statistical policies and guidance that support the integrity, objectivity, and usefulness

of federal science and statistics. He focuses on finding opportunities to help federal statisticians coordinate across agencies, tackle difficult measurement challenges, communicate effectively with senior officials, and advance their careers. Before joining OMB, Bob worked for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at the Department of Transportation, where he designed surveys, contributed to benefit/cost analyses, and conducted retrospective reviews to support traffic safety regulations. He is the chair of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and chair-elect of the Government Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association. He also chairs an OMB Interagency Technical Working Group that is currently reviewing the government-wide standards on race and ethnicity data. He has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and biology from university of Texas at Austin and a master’s degree in statistics from the University of Virginia.



**Kristina Rose** serves as the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), where she oversees programs and services that support crime victims and survivors and the nearly \$9 billion in grant funding to provide vital compensation and assistance to persons impacted

by crime. OVC also invests in new and innovative approaches to improving the criminal justice and community response to crime victimization and raises awareness of crime victim rights. Prior to OVC, Ms. Rose served on the Department of Defense Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, where she led the Victim Care and Support line of effort. Ms. Rose has spent nearly 20 years at the Justice Department serving in numerous roles, including as Deputy Director at OVC, as Acting Director and Deputy Director for the National Institute of Justice, and as the Chief of Staff for the Office on Violence Against Women. She holds a master’s degree in criminal justice from Northeastern University and a bachelor’s in sociology from George Mason University.

### Afternoon Session 1: NCVS Innovations



**Heather Brotsos** currently serves as Deputy Director of Statistical Operations at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. She has nearly 20 years of experience managing and executing large-scale data collections and other analytical projects for the federal government and

Fortune 100 companies. Her management experience includes complex, technical projects and statistical analyses to inform programmatic and policy decisions. Previously, she served as the chief of BJS’s Victimization Statistics Unit, where she oversaw the National Crime Victimization Survey and the Victim Services Statistical

*Continued*

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Research Program. In this role, she was responsible for the ongoing, multiyear initiative to redesign the NCVS instrument. Before coming to BJS, she served as a trusted advisor to clients at the U.S. Department of Labor, Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia, U.S. Social Security Administration, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She earned her master's degree in public health at Johns Hopkins University and her bachelor's degree in systems engineering at George Washington University.



**David Cantor** is a Senior Fellow of Statistics at Westat and a Research Professor at the Joint Program for Survey Methodology. Dr. Cantor has a long history with the NCVS, including being part of both redesigns of the survey. He has published methodological papers

on non-response bias, panel conditioning, measurement error and multi-mode surveys. He has also published in *Criminology* on the relationship between unemployment and crime, opportunity theories of victimization and the prevalence of sexual assault. He holds a PhD in sociology and a master's degree in mathematical statistics from the University of Illinois.



**Jennifer L. Truman** is a Statistician in the Victimization Statistics Unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. She has worked on the National Crime Victimization Survey for over 13 years and has been involved in multiyear efforts to redesign the NCVS instruments.

Her research focuses on improving the measurement of victimization, stalking victimization, domestic and intimate partner violence, and the measurement of demographic characteristics. While at BJS, Dr. Truman has participated in federal interagency working groups led by the White House Gender Policy Council and Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology as a

subject matter expert on the NCVS and victimization data. She has co-authored many BJS reports, including *Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign, Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign: Operational Pilot Test and Split Sample, Violent Victimization by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2017-2020*, and *Stalking Victimization, 2019*. She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Central Florida.

## Afternoon Session 2: What We've Learned from the NCVS



**Emily Berg** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics at Iowa State University. She is currently serving in a two-year collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Statistics through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreement. Her work with BJS

focuses on developing subnational estimates using data from the National Crime Victimization Survey. She has also contributed to work on prevalence estimation for the NCVS. Her primary research interest is in small-area estimation. She also conducts research related to imputation and analysis of complex survey data more generally. Her past applied work has primarily dealt with data from surveys of natural resources and agriculture. She also applied small-area methods to data from the Canadian Labor Force Survey while earning her PhD in statistics from Iowa State University. She has enjoyed learning about the crime realm, while researching the application of small-area methods to NCVS data.



**Erika Harrell** is a Statistician in the Victimization Statistics Unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. While at BJS, she has worked primarily with the National Crime Victimization Survey and has written on a variety of topics, including crime against persons



with disabilities, workplace violence, and identity theft. She was also part of the team that created the National Crime Victimization Survey Data Dashboard or N-DASH. Dr. Harrell was the lead author of *Indicators of Workplace Violence, 2019*, a publication with contributions from 3 federal agencies on issues concerning workplace violence. She was also the author of *Carjacking Victimization, 1995-2021*, the first publication in the new *Just the Stats* series offered by BJS. She is also a member of the Interagency Subcommittee on American Community Survey (ACS) Disability Questions. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Tennessee State University and a master's degree and PhD in criminology from the University of Delaware.

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**Rachel E. Morgan** is a Statistician in the Victimization Statistics Unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics and has worked on the National Crime Victimization Survey for the past 10 years. Dr. Morgan's research focuses on criminal

victimization, intimate partner and domestic violence, service provision for crime victims, and subnational estimates of crime. She is involved in BJS's Victim Services Statistical Research Program, which includes the first ever national data collections on victim service provider provision in the United States. While at BJS, Dr. Morgan has participated in federal interagency working groups led by the Office of Management and Budget and Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology as a subject matter expert on BJS victimization data and statistics. She has authored numerous BJS reports including *Criminal Victimization*, *Violent Victimization by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2017-2020*, *Services for Crime Victims, 2019*, and *Criminal Victimization in the 22 Largest U.S. States, 2017-2019*. She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Central Florida.



**Erica L. Smith** is Unit Chief of the Law Enforcement Incident-Based Statistics Unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. She has more than 25 years of experience in conducting research and data collection in the field of criminal justice. Most recently, Ms. Smith directed the

National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Initiative at BJS, a joint effort with the FBI to increase the reporting of incident-based crime data by law enforcement agencies to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System. NCS-X culminated in the development of statistical and computational procedures to estimate crime in the United States based on NIBRS data, resulting in the release of the first-ever set of national estimates based on reported crime data. Ms. Smith oversees analytic work using NIBRS data to better understand hidden types of victimization, such as elder abuse and sexual violence against children and adolescents. Ms. Smith also led the development and oversight of the Crime Indicators Working Group, comprised of leaders in the law enforcement community working with BJS and other Department of Justice agencies to outline the indicators of crime and public safety most pertinent to them in their capacity as civic leaders and that can best inform the public about the health and well-being of communities around the nation.

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**Min Xie** is a Professor in criminology and criminal justice at University of Maryland-College Park. Her work has been published in numerous journals, including *Criminology*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, and *Annual Review of Criminology*. She serves

as executive counselor for the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and member of the board of directors for the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in information management from Peking University and a PhD in criminal justice from State University of New York (SUNY)-Albany.



# STUDENT CONTEST

# Winners



**Jason Azriel Campos** is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at Texas A&M University. He received his bachelor's degree in Sociology and Comparative Ethnic Studies from California Polytechnic State University,

San Luis Obispo. His research focuses broadly on immigration and crime through quantitative analysis. He has a particular interest in issues dealing with victims of crime, crime reporting, and juvenile delinquency with an emphasis on how these experiences impact the lives of people in marginalized communities. Other research areas examine deportation consequences for Latina/o/x individuals with criminal histories.



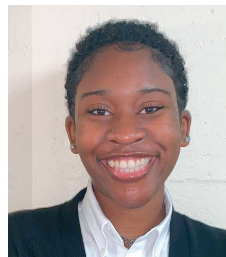
**Isabella E. Castillo** is a doctoral student in Arizona State University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She earned her master's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of

Maryland and bachelor's degrees in International Studies and Italian from Indiana University. Her research interests are broadly centered on the multifaceted relationships between disability, intersectionality, policing, and violent victimization. Particularly, her research aims to understand how individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their loved ones comprehend, interact, and are affected by the justice system and its actors.



**Jayden Richards** is a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee pursuing a degree in Social Welfare with a focus in Criminology. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a

bachelor's degree in Psychology and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a master's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology. She hopes to have a career in research.



**Elizabeth L. Veal** is a senior attending the illustrious Hampton University in Hampton, VA. She will be graduating in May 2024 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. She recently completed an internship with the Hampton Commonwealth

Attorney's Office. She worked closely with Hampton's victim advocates, prosecutors, deputies, police officers, and social service workers in an effort to maintain the judicial rights of victims. In Fall of 2024, she aims to begin pursuing a master's degree in social work.



**Sarah R. Wouters** is a second-year doctoral student and graduate research assistant in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. Her research utilizes quantitative methods to explore the correlates

and consequences of violent victimization, crime in schools, and co-offending.

# NCVS Timeline

**1968**



Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968

**1973**

First full year of data collection as the National Crime Survey

**1979**

BJJ established under the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979

**1980**

Introduced telephone mode for interview

**1985**

Phase-in 1980 sample design

**1989**

Introduced the School Crime Supplement



**1992**

Name changed to NCVS and instrument redesigned. Break in series from earlier NCS data collected with original screener.

**1995**

Phase-in 1990 sample design

**2008**

Introduced the Identity Theft Supplement



**2007**

Discontinued computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) from centralized interviewing centers

**2006**

Introduced bounding adjustment and began using first interview in official estimates  
Replaced paper and pencil interviewing (PAPI) with computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI)



Introduced the Supplemental Victimization Survey (Stalking)

**2005**

Phase-in 2000 sample design

**2004**

Introduced Spanish version of the NCVS

**2002**

Collected one-time Workplace Risk Supplement

**1996**

Introduced the Police Public Contact Supplement



**2012**

Rolled out refresher training for all interviewers  
NVAT released

**2015**

Phase-in 2010 sample design



**2017**

Introduced the Supplemental Fraud Survey  
Sample available for subnational direct estimation

**2020**

Field operations modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic  
Introduced adjustments to moderate outlier weights

**2021**

N-DASH released

**2024**

Instrument redesign split sample



**2025**

Phase-in 2020 sample design  
Instrument redesign to be implemented





## Acknowledgments

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics thanks the NCVS 50th anniversary planning committee (Heather Brotsos, Priscilla Fautleroy, Doris J. James, Grace Kena, and Jennifer Truman) for organizing this event. We also thank everyone on the Westat Inc. team that supported this event, specifically Pamela Giambo and Liz Davis. Additionally, we extend special thanks to the DOJ and OJP security staff and AV technicians for facilitating physical and virtual access to the event. Finally, we express genuine gratitude to the speakers and the in-person and virtual attendees, without whom this celebration would not have been possible.



Bureau of Justice Statistics